

LIT Connections

February 9, 2021

10:00-11:00



I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship. ~ Brene Brown

Present: Cheryl Huntley, Matt Schibley, Laurel Omland, Jessica Coleman, Alice Maynard, Alicia Hanrahan, Diane Bugbee, Cinn Smith, Krista Barbagallo, Barb Joyal, Dana Robson, Amy Lincoln Moore

The third LIT Connections meeting was held today. Thank you for joining us, and also many thanks to Alicia Hanrahan for capturing notes from our meeting. Varied topics were covered.

Discussion started off with a LIT coordinator commenting on playing “Whack-A-Mole” with her staff. One thing pops up, and after you whack it down, something else pops up. They are seeing some good systems work...however, they seem to be constantly in whacking mode, dealing with one crisis after another. They need to be more cognizant of others, whether it is schools, or community partners. They are also asking broader questions...what the overall implications of COVID-19 are locally, how is it impacting schools, and the remote learning of students...what is the impact and what do they need to do moving forward. They have had to make cuts in their staff...so what will happen when we all go back to “normal”, how will the cuts in staff affect the community, in addition to the schools? At their next meeting they will identify the impact and then try to anticipate the next steps on what is needed. Suggested that SIT do the same type of activity at a state level. Another question they asked: What are the moles that have been missed while everyone has been so focused on the pandemic?

Act 264 - the Federation is worried about parent reps. How can they be recruited, trained, and retained? Thinking about sending out a survey to partners to hopefully come up with some sort of solution.

Residential Report is very dense. AHS needs to hear back from LITs on where to focus on next steps. It was suggested that we use the report to improve the System of Care. It might help LITs to read it and react and determine what makes sense to their region of the state. Are there gaps in the system? If so, let us identify it and work to address those gaps. This cannot be done in isolation. The Early Childhood Needs Assessment has some parallel findings in their MH component.

Concern expressed that some students are not able to access anything online. It is not that they do not have the equipment from the school, it's the internet access. Alicia Hanrahan is checking on if there is someone at AOE who can help families/schools be accessible by using technology. Additionally, do the IT staff in schools have their own workgroup (Alicia is checking on that too)? Internet prices are going up...is there funding available for those families who need additional bandwidth? **Please see additional information from Alicia at the end of these notes**

It was shared that LITs are being cancelled when families are not involved. Seems like a missed opportunity to discuss other issues within the System of Care. HCRS/Springfield has identified specific topics and priorities in hopes of all of the LIT players will be in attendance...that still doesn't happen all of the time. There is a need for the re-commitment of all partners to continue to collaborate/communicate/coordinate. COVID-19 gave us a “Get Out of Jail Free” card...but what is the impact in the community when the local team lacks the time/effort of working together...and then how do we get

back together in a non-shaming way? Education not always at the table. A substitute education rep would be ok in many instances.

CSPs need to be more proactive...go back to the basics and have additional training, Education not always at the table. A substitute education rep would be OK in many instances, but consistent participants are best and sometimes there is not enough depth on the bench.

Wish shared that someone from gen ed/MTSS experience would join LIT for a different perspective.

Many wished that teachers and staff would get vaccinated, if the school contracted with a BI, that person would be vaccinated.

Additional information from Alicia Hanrahan:

Alicia is not sure what AOE can support in funding connectivity for school.

She noted that the Department of Public service has a few resources to help target and support the need for more connectivity: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/interactive-broadband-map>

& <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/rural-broadband-technical-assistance>

<https://education.vermont.gov/documents/col-broadband-supports-and-resources-for-families>

AOE is anticipating this this contract will be expedited shortly re: Continuity of Learning and Broadband Support and Resources for Families <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/t-mobile-project-10-million>